Bio-fuel production

3645. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Renewable Energy Development Agency proposes to encourage cultivation of Jatropha in KBK and other areas of Orissa to encourage bio-fuel production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of Government to help the State both physically and financially, to execute this project in a big way, to tide over the power crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Orissa Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA) have taken several initiatives for cultivation of bio-fuels such as Jatropha and Pongamia in the KBK and other districts of the State. They include enumeration of oil seed bearing trees in all KBK districts to assess the available potential; plantation of saplings in certain districts; and, other promotional and awareness raising activities including organizing district and block level workshops, demonstration of bio-diesel production units, printing of brochures, booklets and manuals on bio-fuels etc.

(c) The State Government has announced "Policy Guidelines for raising of energy plantations and bio-diesel production" in August, 2007 to promote bio-fuel development in the State. OREDA is the nodal agency for implementation of the Policy Guidelines. Funds are available from the State Plan as well as Government of India for raising energy plantations and bio-diesel production in the State. Farmers groups, individual farmers, Panipanchayats, Cooperatives, self-help groups, and Van Suraksha Samitees are being encouraged to cultivate non-edible oil-seed bearing tree species on wasteland. The policy provides for allocation of wasteland, technical assistance and financial incentives for raising plantations and setting up of bio-diesel production centres.

Coverage of villages under Rural Electrification Scheme

†3646. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that residential areas with a population of 100 and above only are being covered under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana;

(b) if so, whether it would be possible to provide power to States like Chhattisgarh with a large number, (according to an estimate Chhattisgarh has 50 per cent) of 'Majra Tolies'; and

(c) whether Rural Electricity Corporation has been assiged the projects of eleven districts of Chhattisgarh and if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) All the habitations/Majras/tolas with population above 100, including those of Chhattisgarh, are eligible for electrification in 11th Plan under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana.

(c) All the 11 district based projects of Chhattisgarh have since been sanctioned under RGGVY as per details given in the Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.